

Anderson, IN—U.S. Congressman Mike Pence announced that Chris and Michelle Frazier of Anderson, Indiana, were selected to receive the 2011 Angels in Adoption™ award for their exceptional advocacy of adoption.

"I congratulate Chris and Michelle for receiving the Angels in Adoption award," said Pence. "It is a well-deserved honor, and I commend them for their commitment to nurture and care for the next generation. Their deep concern and love for their children Levi, Noah and Gracie-Mai is evident.

"There are many children in Indiana and around the world who are in need of great families to join," said Pence. "By some estimates, Indiana alone has about 10,000 children in foster care. Some are special needs children, some are in need of uniquely gifted permanent families and some have been hurt and traumatized by the most difficult of childhood traumas. It is my hope that more families like the Fraziers will make loving homes for these children."

Family Background

The Fraziers married in 1994 after meeting in college at Anderson University. Chris has been a police officer for 15 years and Michelle is currently a real estate agent, Pampered Chef consultant, and mom. A few years after getting married, they had two sons, Levi (now 12 years old) and Noah (now nine years old). They wanted to have another child and felt a tug on their hearts to adopt internationally. After a year-long wait, they were informed that they could travel to Vietnam and adopt a one-year-old girl named Mai from an orphanage outside of Hanoi, Vietnam. Gracie-Mai, as she has now become known, has been home for almost four years and as Michelle says, "has blessed our lives more than we could ever have imagined."

Award Background

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of orphans and foster children in the United States and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes through adoption. CCAI's goal is the elimination of the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.

CCAI was created in 2001 by the active co-chairs of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) to more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about the issue of adoption.

The Angels in Adoption™ program was established in 1999 as a Congressional press conference to honor outstanding individuals. Since then, the program has developed into a yearlong public awareness campaign culminating in an extraordinary awards Gala and celebration in Washington, D.C.

To submit a nomination for next year's Angels in Adoption™ award, please call Congressman Pence's Anderson office at 765-640-2919.

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